1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15
Maricopa

The strongest were of mescal fiber. Bundles of the dried leaves of this plant were brought home, pounded, the connective tissue shaken out, and the fibers rolled into rope.

Head rings (kwĭcko') were used by women to support pots and other articles carried on the head. In earlier days, these were made of the inner bark of the willow; now they are simply bound rolls of old cloth. The neighboring Pima and Papago similarly use rings of willow bark and less commonly plaited of agave (mescal) leaf,[93] but it is unlikely that the Maricopa made the latter.

Metates and mortars.—These were the principal utensils for the preparation of meals. A man must not even lay his hands on them: if he were discovered using them, he would be ridiculed as a berdache. Metates were used somewhat more than mortars even in the old days when mesquite, which required pounding in the mortar, was the primary food.

The metate was a flat slab, roughly rectangular, with one prepared face used for grinding with a hand stone or mano. The metate was of a granite-like stone; the mano of a hard, close-grained sandstone. They were considered very valuable since it required a long time to work these tough stones into shape and they were constantly needed for household tasks. Both were formed by pecking with any convenient pointed boulder. Like the Pima, stone axes found in nearby ruins were also used to dress them. One small metate seen was roughly twenty-one inches long by fourteen inches wide and two inches thick. It was perfectly flat transversely, but, on its working surface, slightly concave longitudinally. The mano in use with this was as long as the metate was wide, and had a width such as to be conveniently grasped (fifteen inches long; five and a half inches wide; two inches thick). It was of rectangular cross-section, slightly convex in a longitudinal direction on top, with a true flat surface on the bottom (i.e., the grinding surface) which rose at an angle near each end.

When the metate was to be used, the woman knelt behind it.

[93] Russell, *Pima Indians*, p. 113; Kissell, *Basketry of the Papago and Pima*, p. 159.